



COVID-19 Technology Response System

Weekly Update

October 29, 2020

Welcome to the Weekly Update for the COVID-19 Technology Response System.

The Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) offers a comprehensive and interoperable suite of software to empower public health agencies and give them all the tools they need to respond to COVID-19.

Each week we will provide information about new features, resources, upcoming releases, and other important information about the three tools that make up the Technology Response System: Electronic COVID-19 Case Reporting, EpiTrax and MO ACTS.

Check out the intranet sites here:

- [Electronic COVID-19 Case Reporting](#)
- [EpiTrax](#)
- [MO ACTS](#)

Question of the Week:

How do I do enter a contact that does not have a Parent Case into EpiTrax?

These types of contacts are considered “Orphan” contacts. An orphan contact is one that does not have a positive case associated with it in EpiTrax. The most common instance to use orphan contacts is when the LPHA receives contacts to an out of state case. In these situations, the case would not be in EpiTrax so there is no case to link contacts to. Adding the contact as an orphan is the only way to add them into EpiTrax as a stand-alone contact event that isn’t linked to a case.

The simplest way to create an orphan contact is to start by adding them as you would with a case (search for the person to make sure they are not already in the system, create a new CMR, etc.). This will put the contact into EpiTrax as a morbidity event. **It is crucial to make sure that before you save the event, you demote it to a contact event. This will ensure that it does not get saved as a morbidity event and count as a case in your jurisdiction.**

There is additional information on how to do this in the EpiTrax [user guide](#).

The screenshot shows the EpiTrax interface. At the top is a green navigation bar with the EpiTrax logo and a welcome message. Below this is a header for 'Edit Morbidity Event'. A dropdown menu is open under the 'Options' tab, showing 'Demote' as the selected option. The main form area contains fields for 'Event type' (Morbidity), 'Workflow status' (Assigned to LHD), 'Investigator' (Not assigned), 'Disease' (COVID-19), 'Investigating Agency' (Unassigned), and 'State case status'. There is also a 'Brief note' field. At the bottom, there are tabs for 'Laboratory', 'Contacts', 'Encounters', 'Investigation', 'Notes', and 'Administrative'. The 'Contacts' tab is currently selected, showing fields for 'First name' (Michael), 'Middle name', and 'Parent/Guardian'.

Change Management Group:

Do you have great ideas on how to improve the COVID-19 Technology Response System? Join the Change Team! The COVID-19 Technology Response Change Team meets from 1:30-2:00 pm on Mondays. Email EpiTrax@health.mo.gov to join this exciting group of change leaders.

The Change Champs group met on 10/26 and a summary of that discussion is as follows:

All members of the group are currently using EpiTrax, but a minority have been exposed to MO ACTS. There is a general consensus that EpiTrax can be improved, but excitement in collaborating to develop future solutions. The group looks forward improving the system together and winning over partners for increased overall use of EpiTrax. Group members proposed creation of an EpiTrax/MO ACTS message board, similar to what is used for LPHA nurses. Whitney will work with Tiffany to determine if this is feasible and will also reach out to leadership to share a draft version of the EpiTrax minimum required dataset.

Electronic COVID-19 Case Reporting Updates:

Do you have questions about the case reporting system? Reach out to the support team at COVID19ReportingSystem@health.mo.gov or check out our [user guide and FAQs](#).

EpiTrax Updates:

There is **NEW** guidance on how to enter outbreak information in EpiTrax. You can preview details of that process [here](#). Moving forward, when an outbreak occurs, any associated cases must be assigned an Outbreak ID in EpiTrax. Outbreak assignment functionality will launch the week of November 1st, and a message will be displayed on the EpiTrax intranet webpage when it goes live. If you have questions or concerns about this process, please email epitrax@health.mo.gov. Final guidance will be updated and included in the [EpiTrax User Guide](#).

EpiTrax User Guide updates this week:

- **Accessing Deleted CMRs**
- **Entering Orphan Contacts**

MO ACTS Updates:

There are some new opportunities for technical assistance with and education on MOACTS and EpiTrax.

Office hours are Tuesdays from 4:30-5:30, immediately following the LPHA call. During Office Hours you can get your questions about either system answered by experts. Having trouble logging in or need clarification on functionality? Maybe things aren't working like you thought they would or you can't find a case or contact in the system? Come into Office Hours and get assistance with those problems. You can get login information on the calendar found [here](#).

In addition to Office Hours, join us on Thursdays from 3:30-4:30 for a deep dive into specific features of the EpiTrax and MO ACTS systems, as requested by our users. Each week will be a different topic so keep an eye for more information on topics of interest. Use the [calendar](#) to find login information. If you have an idea for a showcase topic, email epitrax@health.mo.gov.